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Interpretive Summaries of Articles in This Issue 1676

Letters

Clarification on use of chlorpyrifos 1682
Comments on use of an anesthetic machine 1682
Professional image 1685
Comments on latent rabies in a cat 1686
Veterinarians in industry 1688

News

AVMA at Work—AVMA and IRS representatives confer 1691
Which way to the AVMA? 1691
Consultant Advisory Board restructured 1692
Regulatory Front—Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee reviews drug issues 1692
Committee calls for greater involvement in USPC 1694
Council urges changes in FDA policy on human-label drug use 1697
Medicine on the Move—Veterinarians learn about genetic engineering 1695
Awards and Honors 1698
Under the Umbrella 1699
Out and About—Comparative Respiratory Society meets 1700
Toxicology veterinarians to hold mixer 1700
Clients can appeal kennel care 1701
Student and School Scenes—Sunbelt conference sheds light on food animal veterinary education 1702
Swine health management program commences 1704
Technicians Today 1704
Coast to Coast 1705
Deaths 1706

Special Commentary

Professional image in veterinary medicine
D. M. McCurnin and S. M. Shane 1708

The *Human* Side of Veterinary Medicine

Back then—*Kenneth B. Haas* 1710

Special Report

Implications of biotechnology, risk assessment, and communications for the safety of foods of animal origin—*Gary R. Acuff et al* 1714

Food for thought for food animal veterinarians

Cooperating with cooperative extension
John B. Herrick 1722

Food Animal Economics

Economic decision analysis model of a paratuberculosis test and cull program—*M. T. Collins and I. R. Morgan* 1724

Reports of Original Studies

Effects of zinc methionine and zinc oxide on performance, blood characteristics, and antibody titer response to viral vaccination in stressed feeder calves—*J. W. Spears, R. W. Harvey, and T. T. Brown, Jr* 1731

Post-milking teat dip use in dairy herds with high or low somatic cell counts—*R. J. Erskine and R. J. Eberhart* 1734

Seroprevalence of antibodies against encephalomyocarditis virus in swine of Iowa—*Jeff J. Zimmerman, William J. Owen, Howard T. Hill, and George W. Beran* 1737

Clinical Reports

Techniques and complications of pacemaker implantation in four cats—*Philip R. Fox, N. Sydney Moise, Jerry A. Woodfield, and Peter G. G. Darke* 1742

Hepatoencephalopathy and hypocalcemia in a miniature horse mare—*W. K. Scarratt, M. O. Furr, and J. L. Robertson* 1754

Salmonella typhimurium abscess as a postoperative complication in a horse with colic
Anthony T. Blikslager, David A. Wilson, D. Scott Taylor, Karen E. MacFadden, John R. Fischer, and William H. Fales 1757

Spermatozoal head defect as a cause of infertility in a stallion—*J. P. Held, P. Prater, and M. Stettler* 1760

Reports of Retrospective Studies

Medical and surgical management of small-colon impaction in horses: 28 cases (1984-1989)
Alan J. Ruggles and Michael W. Ross 1762

Primary hyperparathyroidism in cats: Seven cases (1984-1989)—*Andrew J. Kallet, Keith P. Richter, Edward C. Feldman, and Douglas E. Brum* 1767

Reports on Wildlife and Laboratory Animals

Perineal urinary bladder diverticulum resulting in partial urinary obstruction in a rhesus monkey
Diane J. Gaertner, Bernard Lytton, and Susan Morgenstern 1772

Myxosarcoma in a Sinaloan milksnake
Patty J. Ewing, Mark D. Setser, E. L. Starr, Barbara Waurzyniak, and Rick L. Cowell 1775

Economic Note

Employment, starting salaries, and educational indebtedness of 1991 graduates of US veterinary medical colleges—*J. Karl Wise* 1777

What Is Your Diagnosis?

M. M. Ansari and R. Stickle 1779

Abstracts of Selected Reports

Evaluation of edetate and thiamine for treatment of experimentally induced environmental lead poisoning in cattle 1741

Dose response to butorphanol administered subcutaneously to increase visceral nociceptive threshold in dogs 1771

Book Review

Women in Veterinary Medicine: Profiles of Success 1756

Announcements

Coming Meetings 1782
Foreign Meetings 1784
Applications for Membership 1786
Certification Examinations 1787
State Board Examinations 1787
Educational Opportunities 1789

Classified Ads 1797

About the cover 1690

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS 1680

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BPA

Hepatoencephalopathy and hypocalcemia in a miniature horse mare

A pregnant, miniature horse mare had clinical signs of hepatoencephalopathy and concurrent hypocalcemia. The signs included dullness, inappetence, blindness, head pressing, weakness, muscle fasiculations, uveitis, and urinary incontinence. Hepatic dysfunction and hypocalcemia were confirmed by serum biochemical analysis. The mare was treated successfully with a continuous infusion of Ringer solution, calcium gluconate, dextrose, B-complex vitamins, sodium ampicillin, and flunixin meglumine; topical administration of ophthalmic ointments; and decompression of the urinary bladder. Histologic examination of a liver biopsy specimen revealed acute hepatic necrosis, which likely was associated with administration of a vaccine of equine origin 2 months earlier.—W. K. Scarratt et al (J Am Vet Med Assoc 1991; 199:1754-1756). Key words: equine species; brain; hypocalcemia; liver; vaccination.

Salmonella typhimurium abscess as a postoperative complication in a horse with colic

An 11-year-old, 430-kg foxtrotter stallion was referred for evaluation of colic. A right-sided inguinal hernia was diagnosed. At exploratory laparotomy, the ileum was found to be herniated through the right inguinal canal. Compromised small intestine was resected, jejunocecal anastomosis was performed, and the horse was castrated. Three days after surgery, the stallion would not bear weight on the left hind limb. The musculature of the left thigh region became swollen. Aspiration of the left thigh region yielded serosanguineous fluid from which *Salmonella typhimurium* was isolated. Ultrasonography of the left thigh revealed multiple hypoechoic areas suggestive of abscess. The left medial thigh region was surgically incised, and a large abscess was drained. Bacteriologic culture of feces yielded *S typhimurium*. The owner elected to have the horse euthanatized.—A. T. Blikslager et al (J Am Vet Med Assoc 1991;199:1757-1759). Key words: equine species; abscess; colic; *Salmonella* spp.

Spermatozoal head defect as a cause of infertility in a stallion

A 9-year-old Arabian stallion with a 3-year history of infertility was evaluated for breeding soundness. Both testes were small. Ultrasonography revealed a small amount of free fluid between the tunics of both testes. Results of cytologic examination of the fluid were unremarkable. On semen examination, progressive motility was 10%, and total number of spermatozoa in the ejaculate was 6.6×10^9, of which 92% were abnormal. Predominant abnormalities were head defects (75%): 57% of the heads had single or multiple vacuoles, and 60% also had midpiece swelling or bending.—J. P. Held et al (J Am Vet Med Assoc 1991;199:1760-1761). Key words: equine species; infertility; spermatozoa.

Medical and surgical management of small-colon impaction in horses: 28 cases (1984–1989)

Impaction of the small colon with digesta was diagnosed in 28 horses between 1984 and 1989; 20 horses were admitted during the winter months. Diagnosis of small-colon impaction was made in 21 horses by palpation per rectum, and in 7 horses at exploratory celiotomy. Ten horses were treated medically, and 18 horses were treated surgically. Medical treatment included IV administered fluids and analgesics and orally administered laxatives, lubricants, and analgesics. Surgical treatment included "high enema" under anesthesia, large-colon enterotomy, and small-colon resection. Horses that were treated surgically were more likely to have abdominal distention than were those that responded to medical treatment ($P < 0.025$). Signs of greater degree of abdominal pain and higher heart rate were seen in horses treated surgically. Duration of hospitalization was less in horses treated medically ($P < 0.025$). All horses that were treated medically survived, and 7 of the horses treated surgically were alive at follow-up evaluation. Long-term survival was higher for horses treated medically ($P < 0.025$). Postoperative complications included fever and diarrhea. Early and aggressive medical management of horses with impaction of the small colon is recommended.—A. J. Ruggles and M. W. Ross (J Am Vet Med Assoc 1991; 199:1762-1766). Key words: equine species; colon; obstruction, intestinal.

Primary hyperparathyroidism in cats: Seven cases (1984–1989)

The clinical signs, serum biochemical abnormalities, treatment, and histologic findings from 7 cats with primary hyperparathyroidism were evaluated. The cats were 8 to 15 years old, and the most common clinical signs were anorexia and lethargy. Each cat was persistently hypercalcemic prior to treatment. Five of the cats had a parathyroid adenoma surgically removed, 1 had bilateral cystadenomas surgically removed, and 1 had a parathyroid carcinoma diagnosed at necropsy. Two of the 6 cats that had surgery became severely hypocalcemic afterward, but responded to orally administered vitamin D. This report confirms that primary hyperparathyroidism develops in cats and that the hypercalcemia in each cat was a serendipitous finding on a routine serum bio-

chemical profile. Once hypercalcemia is confirmed, primary hyperparathyroidism should be included in the differential diagnosis.—A. J. Kallet et al (J Am Vet Med Assoc 1991;199:1767-1771). Key words: feline species; hyperparathyroidism, primary.

Perineal urinary bladder diverticulum resulting in partial urinary obstruction in a rhesus monkey

A 16-year-old rhesus monkey with perineal swelling and urinary obstruction was found to have a congenital urinary bladder diverticulum. Because the diverticulum was located at the trigone, its distention partially obstructed the urethra, resulting in incomplete voiding. The diverticulum was resected and did not redevelop.—D. J. Gaertner et al (J Am Vet Med Assoc 1991; 199:1772-1774). Key words: monkeys; urinary obstruction; urinary bladder diverticulum.

Myxosarcoma in a Sinaloan milksnake

A 2-year-old Sinaloan milksnake was examined because of a 1-cm mass attached to the lateral wall of the coelom. A diagnosis of myxosarcoma was made on the basis of histologic features and special staining characteristics.—P. J. Ewing et al (J Am Vet Med Assoc 1991;199:1775-1776). Key words: snakes; neoplasia.

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